

## **Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services HCBS Autism Waiver**



The HCBS/Autism Waiver will provide services to children with Autism to receive early intensive intervention treatment and allow primary caregivers to receive needed support through services.

HCBS Autism Waiver applications are available at  
[http://www.srs.ks.gov/agency/css/Documents/Autism/Autism\\_Preliminary\\_Application.pdf](http://www.srs.ks.gov/agency/css/Documents/Autism/Autism_Preliminary_Application.pdf)

Community Supports & Services draft Policy & Procedure Manual web site at  
<http://www.srs.ks.gov/agency/css/Pages/CSSPolicies.aspx>

KMAPP Provider enrolment, NPI numbers, and manual's web site:  
<https://www.kmap-state-ks.us/>

Kansas Early Autism Services website for families, providers and training information:  
<http://ksearlyautism.org/index.html>

### **Additional Information regarding the Autism Waiver:**

- Target Population - Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, including Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and Other Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified.
- Children will be able to enter the Waiver program from the age of diagnosis through the age of five.
- Autism Waiver services shall be limited to three years unless medically necessary. For reason of medical necessity services may be extended for one year with approval of the review team.
- Requirements for extension of services beyond three years:
  - Child must meet eligibility based on the Level of Care assessment at the annual review on the third year of services.
  - Data collected by the Autism Specialist must document continued improvement. Based on the data collected, Autism Specialist may make a recommendation for

continued services to an independent review team. The independent review team will make final decision regarding continued services.

- Services will be limited to a single, one year extension period.
  - The institutional alternative for the Waiver program shall be a State Mental Health Hospital.
  - To be eligible for Autism Waiver services the child must:
    - Receive a diagnosis by a licensed Medical Doctor or Ph.D. Psychologist using an approved Autism specific screening tool. Approved tools include:
      - CARS – Childhood Autism Rating Scale
      - GARS – Gilliam Autism Rating Scale
      - ADOS – Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale
      - ADI – Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised
      - ASDS – Asperger Syndrome Diagnostic Scale
      - Other Autism specific tools as approved by SRS
    - After receiving a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, the child will be assessed for a Level of Care Determination to establish functional eligibility for Waiver services. The Vineland II Survey Interview Adaptive Behavior Scales will be the tool used to assess functional eligibility.
    - A qualified contracted Functional Eligibility Specialist conducts an assessment of a child who is applying for waiver services utilizing the Vineland II. The child must have a total score or a score on any two elements of the Adaptive Areas (Communication, Daily Living skills, Socialization and Motor skills) of two standard deviations below the mean of 100 (i.e., a score of 70 or below) in order to be eligible for the Waiver.
- OR
- A total score or a score on any two elements of the Adaptive Areas (Communication, Daily Living Skills, Socialization and Motor skills) of one standard deviation below the mean of 100 (score of 71-85). This prompts the assessor to review the scores on the Maladaptive Behaviors (internal, external or total). If the Maladaptive Score on the internal, external or total is clinically significant, a v-scale score of 21-24, the child is eligible for the Waiver.

*Note: The Vineland II assessment does not score children below three years of age in the maladaptive area.*

- Waiver Service Providers can either be Independent Providers or employees on an agency.

### **Autism Waiver Services:**

- 1. Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic Services (Autism Specialist)**  
(Rate of pay is \$70 per hour or 17.50 per unit)

Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic Services are intended to assist the family and paid support staff or other professionals with carrying out the Individual Behavioral Program/ Plan of Care (IBP/POC) that supports the child's functional development and inclusion in the community. Consultative and therapeutic services are provided by the Autism Specialist and include assessment of the child and family's strengths and needs, development of the IBP/POC, training and technical assistance to the family and paid support staff in order to carry out the program, and monitoring of the child's progress within the program and of the family and/or other providers implementation of the program. The IBP is a required component of the child's Individualized Plan of Care. These services may be provided in all customary and usual community locations including where the child lives, attend schools and/or childcare, and/or socializes.

For the purposes of this service, "family" is defined as the persons who live with or provide care to a person served on the waiver, and may include a parent, step parent, legal guardian, siblings, relatives, grandparents, or foster parents.

#### Provider Qualifications

##### Autism Specialist

- Master's degree, preferably in human services or education or Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and
- 2000 hours of supervised experience working with a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder \*
- Completion of state approved curriculum
- Must successfully pass back grounds check from the Kansas Bureau of Investigations (KBI) SRS Adult and Child Protective Services Registries, (APS) (CPS), Kansas Health & Environment Nurse Aid Registry, and Motor Vehicle screen.
- Medicaid Enrolled Provider

\* Exception policy to allow SRS to waive 1,000 hours of the required experience for individuals who are (BCBA).

\*Services are limited to 50 hours or 200 units per calendar year; request for additional hours must have prior authorization.

## **2. Intensive Individual Supports**

(Rate of pay is \$25 per hour or \$6.25 per unit)

Services provided to a child with an autism spectrum disorder designed to assist in acquiring, retaining, improving, and generalization of the self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills necessary to reside and function successfully in home and community settings. Services will be provided through evidence based

and data driven methodologies. Intensive Individual Supports include the development of skills such as:

- a. Social skills to enhance participation in family, school, and community activities (e.g., imitation, social initiations and response to adults and peers, parallel and interactive play with peers and siblings);
- b. Expressive verbal language, receptive language, and nonverbal communication skills;
- c. A functional symbolic communication system;
- d. Increased engagement and flexibility in developmentally appropriate tasks and play, including the ability to attend to the environment and respond to an appropriate motivational system;
- e. Fine and gross motor skills used for age appropriate functional activities, as needed;
- f. Cognitive skills, including symbolic play and basic concepts, as well as academic skills;
- g. Replacement of problem behaviors with more conventional and appropriate behaviors; and
- h. Independent organizational skills and other socially appropriate behaviors that facilitate successful community integration (e.g., completing a task independently, following instructions in a group, asking for help).

The majority of these contacts must occur in customary and usual community locations where the child lives, attend schools and/or childcare, and/or socializes. Services provided in an educational setting must not be academic in purpose. Services furnished to a child who is an inpatient or resident of a hospital, nursing facility, intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation, or institution for mental disease are non-covered.

Services must be recommended by a team, are subject to prior approval, and must be intended to achieve the goals or objectives identified in the child's IBP/POC.

Transportation is provided between the participant's place of residence and other services sites or places in the community and the cost of transportation is included in the rate paid to providers of this services.

Provider Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in a related field or 60 hours college credit hours and 1,000 hours experience working with a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Completion of the state approved training curriculum (which will include a hands-on component)
- Will work under the direction of the Autism Specialist

- Must successfully pass back grounds check from the Kansas Bureau of Investigations (KBI) SRS Adult and Child Protective Services Registries, (APS) (CPS), Kansas Health & Environment Nurse Aid Registry, and Motor Vehicle screen.
- Medicaid Enrolled Provider

\*Services are limited to 25 hours per week or 100 units per week, per calendar year.

### 3. **Respite Care**

(Rate of pay is \$12. per hour or \$3. per unit)

Respite Care provides temporary direct care and supervision for the child. The primary purpose is relief to families/caregivers of a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The service is designed to help meet the needs of the primary caregiver as well as the identified child. Normal activities of daily living are considered content of the service when providing respite care, and include support in the home, after school, or at night.

Respite Care can be provided in a child's home or place of residence or provided in other community settings. Respite Services provided by or in an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) and/or an Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) are non-covered.

Transportation to and from school/medical appointments/ or other community based activities, and/or any combination of the above is included in the rate paid to providers of this service.

Federal financial participation (FFP) is not claimed for the cost of room & board. Respite care does not duplicate any other Medicaid State Plan Service or service otherwise available to recipient at no cost.

Provider Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Eighteen years of age or older
- Must meet family's qualifications
- Must reside outside of child's home
- Will work under the direction of the Autism Specialist
- Completion of the State approved training curriculum
- Must successfully pass back grounds check from the Kansas Bureau of Investigations (KBI) SRS Adult and Child Protective Services Registries, (APS) (CPS), Kansas Health & Environment Nurse Aid Registry, and Motor Vehicle screen.

- Enrolled Medicaid Provider

\*Services are limited to 168 hours or 672 units per calendar year.

**4. Parent Support and Training (peer to peer)**

(\$25 per hour or \$6.25 per unit, - Individual rate)

(\$12 per hour or \$3 per unit - Group rate)

Parent Support and Training is designed to provide the training and support necessary to ensure engagement and active participation of the family in the treatment process and with the ongoing implementation and reinforcement of skills learned throughout the treatment process. Support and Training is provided to family members to increase their ability to provide a safe and supportive environment in the home and community for the child. This involves assisting the family with the acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary to understand and address the specific needs of the child in relation to their autism spectrum disorder and treatment; and development and enhancement of the family's specific problem-solving skills, coping mechanisms, and strategies for the child's symptom/behavior management.

For the purposes of this service, "family" is defined as persons who live with or provide care to a person served on the waiver, and may include a parent, step parent, legal guardian, siblings, relatives, grandparents, or foster parents. Services may be provided individually or in a group setting. Services must be recommended by a treatment team, are subject to prior approval, and must be intended to achieve the goals or objectives identified in the child's IBP/POC.

Parent Support and Training does not duplicate any other Medicaid State Plan Service or other services otherwise available to recipient at no cost.

**Peer to Peer Provider Qualifications:**

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Twenty-one years of age or older
- Completion of parent support training or other approved training curriculum
- Must have three years of direct care experience with a child with an autism spectrum disorder <Or> Is the parent of a child with an autism spectrum disorder age three or older
- Will work under the direction of the Autism specialist
- Must successfully pass back grounds check from the Kansas Bureau of Investigations (KBI) SRS Adult and Child Protective Services Registries, (APS) (CPS), Kansas Health & Environment Nurse Aid Registry, and Motor Vehicle screen.

- Enrolled Medicaid Provider

\*Services are limited to 30 hours or 120 units per calendar year. Limit applies whether it is group, individual or combination of both.

## **5. Family Adjustment Counseling**

(Rate of pay is \$40 per hour or \$10 per unit- Individual rate)

(Rate of pay is \$20 per hour or \$5 per unit – Group rate)

Counseling provided to the family members of a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in order to guide and help them cope with the child's illness and the related stress that accompanies the initial understanding of the diagnosis and the ongoing continuous, daily care required by the child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Enabling the family to manage this stress improves the likelihood that the child with the disorder will continue to be cared for at home, thereby preventing premature and otherwise unnecessary institutionalization. Family Adjustment Counseling provides a safe and supporting environment for the family to express emotions associated with the comprehension of the disorder and to ask questions about the disorder to achieve acceptance of the disorder and prepare the family to support the child on an ongoing basis.

For the purposes of this service, "family" is defined as persons who live with or provide unpaid care to a person served on the waiver, and may include a parent, step parent, legal guardian, siblings, relatives, or grandparents. Services may be provided individually or in a group setting. Services must be recommended by a treatment team, are subject to prior approval, and must be intended to achieve the goals or objectives identified in the child's IBC/POC.

Family Adjustment Counseling does not duplicate any other Medicaid State Plan Service or other services otherwise available to recipient at no cost.

Provider Qualifications:

- Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP)
- Will maintain an ongoing collaborative relationship with the Autism Specialist beginning at time of referral

\*Services are limited to 12 hours or 48 units per calendar year. Limit applies whether it is group, individual or combination of both.

## **Non-Waiver Service**

### **1. Functional Eligibility Specialist**

Once a child and family has been referred to the Functional Eligibility Specialist for a Level of Care (functional) determination, the Specialist shall complete the assessment within 5 business days from time of initial referral.

The Functional Eligibility Specialist shall perform the Level of Care (functional) Determination necessary to establish a child's eligibility for the HCBS Autism Waiver program using the Vineland II Survey Interview Adaptive Behavior Scales.

If a child is found to be eligible for Autism Waiver services, the Specialist shall aid the child and the child's family in completion of the Medicaid application (if necessary) and gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services through the provision of information and referral and related activities. Throughout provision of all information and referral services, the Specialist will promote and ensure participant choice.

The Functional Eligibility Specialist shall perform the child's annual assessment utilizing the Vineland II Survey Interview Adaptive Behavior Scales for each year that the child receives HCBS Autism Waiver services.

The Functional Eligibility Specialist shall not provide any additional Autism Waiver services to a child or family to whom the Specialist provided the Autism Eligibility Specialist services.

Provider Qualifications:

- Meet the qualification set forth by Pearson Assessments as a Level 3 tester. Information can be found at the following website:  
<http://ags.pearsonassessments.com/Group.asp?nGroupInfoID=a3000>
- Must be able to provide proof of professional liability insurance and automobile liability insurance coverage.
- Must successfully pass back grounds check from the Kansas Bureau of Investigations (KBI) SRS Adult and Child Protective Services Registries, (APS) (CPS), Kansas Health & Environment Nurse Aid Registry, and Motor Vehicle screen.